

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03

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R 291357Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2740

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0241

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO US ZA FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON ANGOLA

1. FRENCH COLLEAGUE (FRANCAIS) TOLD ME QUAI HAD JUST
LAST WEEK INSTRUCTED FRENCH AMBASSADORS IN MODERATE
AFRICAN STATES INCLUDING ZAMBIA TO APPROACH HOST FOREIGN
MINISTERS TO COMMUNICATE FRENCH ASSESSMENT ON OAU SUMMIT
ON ANGOLA. FRENCH BELIEVE SIX AFRICAN STATES WITHIN
PRO-MPLA GROUP (GHANA, MAURITIUS, BURUNDI, NIGER, LIBYA
AND SUDAN) COULD BE AMENABLE TO SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE

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IN FINDING POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY SOLUTION TO
ANGOLAN PROBLEM. FRENCH POLICY IS TO TRY TO FIND WAYS OF

BRIDGING GAP BETWEEN THESE TWO OPPOSING AFRICAN
POSITIONS. ZAMBIANS AGREED WITH FRENCH LIST WITH
EXCEPTION OF BURUNDI.

2. FRANCAIS SAID FRENCH TELEVISION CREW JUST BACK
FROM ANGOLA JAN 28 HAD SEEN SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS
IN AREA OF TEXEIRA DE SOUZA HELPING TO TRANSPORT
UNITA TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICAN LORRIES. I SERIOUSLY
QUESTIONED RELIABILITY OF THIS REPORT. FRANCAIS
CONTENDED SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE NOT RPT NOT RETREATED,
MERELY WITHDRAWN SOMEWHAT TO "BLACKMAIL WEST" INTO
COMING FORTH TO HELP RESIST GROWING AND INCREASINGLY
EFFECTIVE SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE ON MPLA. FRANCAIS
SAID HE HAD REPORT FROM WASHINGTON BASED ON BILATERALS
THERE TO EFFECT UNITA COULD HOLD OUT FOR THREE TO FOUR
MONTHS LONGER. THIS STRIKES US AS OVER-OPTIMISTIC IN VIEW
OF SAVIMBI'S ESTIMATE THAT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL HELP HE HAS STAYING
POWERS OF A FEW WEEKS ONLY (LUSAKA 154 NOTAL).

3. FRANCAIS SAID PARIS IS OPPOSED TO ZAIRE TAKING ANGOLA
QUESTION TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL BECAUSE IT WOULD ONLY
ACCENTUATE OAU DIVISIONS WHICH SHOWED UP SO SHARPLY AT
ADDIS; MOREOVER WITH TANZANIA IN CHAIR AND PRESENCE ON
SC OF SUCH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES AS BENIN AND ALGERIA,
CHANCES OF MODERATE OUTCOME WOULD BE LIMITED.

4. COMMENT: FROM AMB FRANCAIS' REMARKS TO US WE HAVE
IMPRESSION (SUBJECT TO CORRECTION FROM PARIS OR WASHINGTON)
THAT FRENCH POLICY MAY BE CONCERNED FAR MORE WITH
FINDING WAY TO HARMONIZE CONFLICTING AFRICAN POSITIONS
ON ANGOLA THAN WITH STRONG FRENCH INITIATIVE OR CLOSE
COOPERATION ON ANGOLAN SOLUTION THAT SEVERS OVERALL
WESTERN INTEREST OF GETTING SOVIETS AND CUBANS OUT.
WILKOWSKI

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